



# Community Involvement Unit newsletter November 2014

Well, it finally arrived – waiting with bated breath, the suspense was agonising!!

Some of you who have contributed 150 hours or more in the last quarter will already have received one. Is it a bird, a tree, an insect? The iconic rare or endangered lapel badge for 2014/15 is a.....woylie, or brush-tailed bettong.

As previously reported, these badges are specially commissioned in limited quantities.

The woylie has been chosen to highlight their plight and the work by DPaW and volunteer groups to help their recovery. They are currently listed as critically endangered under the WA Wildlife Conservation Act and the International Union for Conservation (IUCN). More information on DPaW's conservation work for them can be found by searching for 'woylies' on the website - [www.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au)

We are accelerating towards the annual Campground Host workshop. We have a full house with a wait list established for those who are really keen. Page 2 outlines one of the more remote postings for Campground hosts. All the more of a relief if / when you get there and are welcomed by some of our amazing CGH volunteers.

FYI – last year 204 hosts provided 150,569 volunteer hours serving visitors to National Parks. Currently we have over 600 registered campground hosts.

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Still on the campground host program – we must be doing something right when other folks want to replicate our programs. This summer campground hosts will be trialled on Rottneest Island and at two “bush” campgrounds in the City of Albany, who are requesting expressions of interest for their campsites at Cosy Corner East and Torbay Floodgates, beginning in December. If you are an existing host and interested please contact Steve Grimmer:

[stepheng@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:stepheng@albany.wa.gov.au) or call 9841 9342, providing your contact details, preferred dates over the trial period, your campground host experience including referees and a brief paragraph of what attracts you to the role.

Spring / early summer is always very busy for the Wild-care Helpline volunteers, particularly with snake sightings, ducklings on the move and seals hauling out onto the beach for a rest.

We are always recruiting for Helpline volunteers and all training is provided. With the help of our training and an experienced mentor you can quickly (even in the comfort of your own home) be helping sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife. Many other roles are also available so please don't hesitate to contact:

[community.involvement@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:community.involvement@dpaw.wa.gov.au) if you can spare some time.

Finally – this is our last newsletter before Christmas so everyone in the Community Involvement Unit Hugh, Sonia, Lorene, and Lee would like to extend very best wishes to you all for Christmas and 2015. Please take time to enjoy family and friends and have a good rest between all the volunteering and travel which you are all engaged in.

Hugh

Community Involvement Coordinator



## Hosting at Munurru campground by Don and Mary Coley

We had the good fortune to be able to spend the month of July at this wonderful campground in the Kimberley.

The Munurru campground and surrounding area is managed jointly by Parks and Wildlife, and the Kandiwal Aboriginal Corporation.



Don cruising around on patrol

Travellers claim it is the best site in the Kimberley where you can do 'real camping'. The campsite extends over almost 1km along the banks of the



Mary getting her hands dirty

King Edward River and there are campfire rings at various intervals with no numbered campsites.

There are five toilet blocks and several campers claimed the toilets were THE best of any campsite anywhere!

Senior Ranger Lindsay "Chuck" Baker, based at the Mitchell River National Park, has turned the



The falls provided daily relaxation after work

Munurru campground into a welcome oasis on the 75km rough corrugated track to the Mitchell Falls.

For more information on visiting Mitchell River National Park:

<http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/mitchell-river>

Information on becoming a volunteer Campground host can be found on the DPaW website:

<http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/volunteering-opportunities/100-campground-hosting>

The annual Campground Host workshop is being held on November 6 and 7 at the Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre, Kensington. The workshop is a chance for around 150 new and current Campground Hosts to get together to share tales of camping in WA's national parks.

The workshop is also a chance for rangers at some of the 60+ hosted campsites to tempt hosts to volunteer for them - shouldn't be too hard you would think, but competition is fierce and rangers try different techniques each year to convince the hosts that theirs is the park to stay in....reports and pictures from the event will be in the next newsletter.



## WA Naturally prints & 2015 Landscape Calendar

WA Naturally publications has launched a collection of 33 stunning illustrations and photographs produced by two Parks and Wildlife staff available for purchase. Some of the pictures available are featured on this page.

These works would normally only be seen in WA Naturally publications, including LANDSCOPE which is now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year.



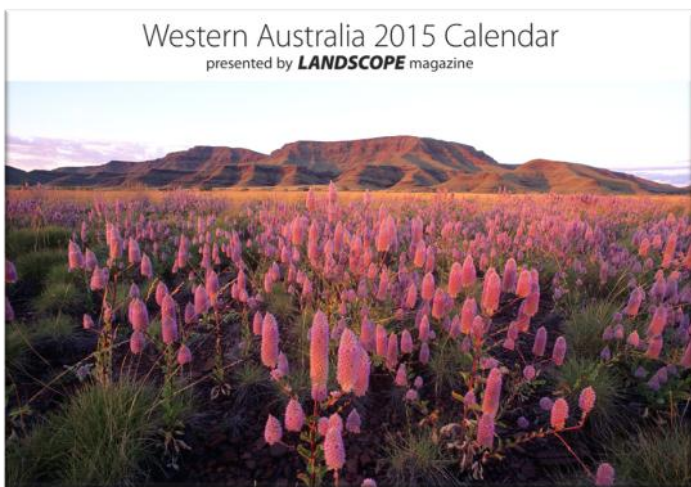
Mallee tree flower © Peter Nicholas / DPaW



Western Bowerbird © Janine Gunther / DPaW

Quality unframed prints are now available to purchase online at [shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au) from RRP \$35, while volunteers can get them for \$28.

The *Western Australia 2015 Calendar* is also available and features 13 amazing professional photographs of the State's parks, plants and animals. School and public holidays, and important dates for the environment are included with space to add your own special events.



Gooitzen Van der Meer's illustration of purple crowned fairy wrens © Gooitzen Van der Meer / DPaW

The calendars have an RRP of \$16.95, and Parks and Wildlife-registered volunteers are able to purchase them for only \$13.55

All Parks and Wildlife-registered volunteers who have contributed over 20 hours for the department receive a 20 per cent discount on these and many more WA Naturally publications.

## Smartphone and tablet apps

### Be SunSmart

The SunSmart app lets you know when you need sun protection and when it's safe to get some sun for vitamin D, making it easier than ever to be smart about your sun exposure all year.

With a few clicks, you can find a seven-day weather forecast, the UV level and sun protection times for your local area, so you will always be prepared for the day or week ahead.

You can also personalise the sun protection alert to remind you of the daily sun protection times, either at a time of your choice or when the UV reaches a level where sun protection is required.

Use the vitamin D Tracker to find out if you are getting enough UV exposure to help with your vitamin D levels.

Sun protection times are issued daily by the Bureau of Meteorology. You can download the app for free on:

iTunes - <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/sunsmart/id402707467?mt=8> and

Android - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.org.cancervic.sunsmart&hl=en>



### DangerOz

Everyone knows that Australia is full of animals that love to bite and sting innocent humans.

This app helps you to identify where those animals might be lurking near you - providing photos and facts on the different types of dangerous animals you might come across.

The app currently contains information on 40 different Australian creatures including:

- Snakes
- Sharks
- Spiders
- Crocodiles
- Insects
- and even some birds

It is free to download from iTunes:

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/dangeroz/id458262916?mt=8>



and on Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.spacepeoples.dangeroz>



## DOLPHIN WATCH



The Dolphin Watch project is one of Australia's most successful citizen science programs. The project, which recently celebrated its fifth anniversary, involves monitoring Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins in the Swan Canning River park.

Over the past five years, more than 720 community members participated in free training events to learn about the dolphins that call the Swan and Canning rivers home.

Once trained, volunteers report sightings and non-sightings using a new smartphone app or online form.

The information collected is given to Curtin and Murdoch university's Coastal and Estuarine Dolphin Project CEDP for analysis and inclusion in their research.

Volunteers have logged more than 11,430 monitoring reports since the start of the project in 2009 and have contributed more than 3800 volunteer hours in the last year alone!

Murdoch University researchers Dr Hugh Finn and Delphine Chabanne have produced *FinBook*, an identification catalogue of the dolphins in the River park. Volunteers receive a free copy when they train and the book is also available for free to the community online at [www.riverguardians.com](http://www.riverguardians.com). *FinBook* is updated annually and now includes a dolphin behaviour guide and information on how to care for dolphins.

This year, Professor Lyn Beazley AO FTSE was announced as Dolphin Watch's Patron. Lyn has been an advocate for the citizen science project since its inception and was pleased to launch Junior Dolphin Watch, a new education program for schools to learn more about dolphins. 438 students have already received Junior Dolphin Watch training and many more schools are using the National Curriculum linked lessons freely available on the [River Guardians website](http://www.riverguardians.com).

### Dolphin Watch App

The Dolphin Watch App is an easy-to-use smartphone app that allows you to upload data to the River Guardians and Coastal Walkabout websites.

It is designed to encourage people of all ages and abilities to record sightings of the resident Swan and Canning River dolphins, and for people who are trained Dolphin Watchers to be able to perform surveys of the rivers and contribute that information to the Trust.

The app automatically takes note of the time and location (GPS) of dolphin sightings before uploading that data in real time to the Coastal Walkabout website ([www.coastalwalkabout.org](http://www.coastalwalkabout.org)). Via the website, the data is freely accessible to the general public, researchers, NGOs, industry and local organisations all over the world.

Specific Dolphin Watch surveys that are undertaken are delivered to the Swan River Trust's database of survey effort, and is used for a range of research by the organisation.

You must be a registered and trained Dolphin Watcher to be able to use the app. Contact [Guardians@swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au](mailto:Guardians@swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au) for more information.



## WILDCARE helpline snake advice

In spring and summer, many reptiles emerge to bask in the sun. During this time you should take precautions to minimise the chance of encountering snakes.

Remember, snakes are an integral part of the natural environment and play an important role in wildlife ecosystems.

### Common snakes around Perth

Dangerously venomous dugites and tiger snakes are common in the metropolitan area. Both species hunt small mammals, frogs and lizards, and are active during the day and at night in warm weather.



Above: non-venomous Stimson python, Courtesy of Maroo Wildlife  
Photo © John Palmer

- **Tiger snakes** (*Notechis scutatus*) are most common in vegetation around wetland areas, but may be found well away from water. They are seen throughout the year sunning themselves in open areas.
- **Dugites** (*Pseudonaja affinis*) - are most common in the drier bushland areas around Perth, especially grasslands. These fast-moving snakes are attracted to aviaries and other locations where mice can be found.

### Precautions

- Take care in bushland and grassy areas.
- Walk and/or cycle in cleared areas only, where you can see the ground.
- When bushwalking, wear long trousers and boots or other enclosed footwear that preferably cover the ankles.
- Keep a watchful eye on the ground about a metre ahead of where you are walking, and avoid entering areas of long grass, rushes and undergrowth.
- Around your home - remove long grass and items lying on the ground such as corrugated iron, which may provide cover for snakes.
- Reduce mice numbers around the house.

### If you find a snake

Do not approach or aggravate it in any way. Most bites occur when people accidentally step on snakes, or while attempting to kill them. As the warmer days of spring approach, snakes become more active as they leave their winter retreats in search of a mate and food.

If you find a snake in a garden or a house, contact the **Wildcare Helpline (08) 9474 9055** to be referred to a volunteer reptile remover. If volunteers are unavailable, there are commercial snake removal services.



## **Community Involvement Unit**

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**#exploreparkswa**

The CIU provides community members in WA with opportunities to support, be involved in, and contribute to, the work of the Department of Parks and Wildlife..

The CIU supports volunteers as an integral component of the Western Australian community. Volunteering enriches the community through the delivery of environmental, social, economic and health benefits to individuals, local groups and communities, the state and the nation.

If you have an event or story you would like to feature in future editions of the newsletter, or have any comments or suggestions, please contact us via:

[Community.involvement@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:Community.involvement@dpaw.wa.gov.au)

**For information on volunteering for DPaW, visit:**

[www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/volunteering-opportunities](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/volunteering-opportunities)

## **Munda Bididi Volunteer opportunities**

The Munda Bididi Trail Foundation needs your help, there is so much to do - there are two roles needed to be filled:

- 1) A vibrant **Office Assistant**, required for between three and four hours, once or twice a week -

**If you possess** intermediate computer skills including Microsoft Access, Excel, Word and Outlook; have a bright and bubbly personality; and attention to detail, [Leanne](#) would love to hear from you.

The tasks are varied and include processing maps, merchandise and membership sales; map reorders; end to end certificates and much more, guaranteed to be interesting and busy!

The days and hours that you volunteer are flexible; however we are looking for someone who is available long term to come in on a regular basis (minimum once a week between Monday and Wednesday) to the Munda Bididi Trail Foundation office which is situated above the Mountain Design store, 862 Hay Street, Perth.

- 2) **Bookkeeper**, required for four or five hours per week -

**If you are conversant** with MYOB V19 and have extensive bookkeeping experience, [Leanne](#) would love to hear from you.

The tasks include entering data from map, merchandise and membership sales, paying bills and preparing the monthly finances for the accountant.

The days and hours that you volunteer are flexible, however we are looking for someone who is available long term to come in on a regular basis to the Munda Bididi Trail Foundation office.

**NB: Both roles will be treated to home-baked cookies and a cuppa on their volunteer days.....**

If you have the time, skills and enthusiasm or if you would like more information, please email a covering letter detailing your experience to Leanne Robb via [foundation@mundabiddi.org.au](mailto:foundation@mundabiddi.org.au) or phone 9481 2483.

